

In view of the amendments made to claims 88 and 90-91, Applicants submit that claims 88 and 90-91 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the section 112, second paragraph, rejections be withdrawn.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 87-91, 95, 98-102, 106-110 and 112-114 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanji et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,067,007 (Kanji).

For a reference to be anticipatory, each and every feature in the claims must be disclosed by the single reference. Kanji does not anticipate all of the features present in the currently amended claims. As amended, Applicants' independent claims 87 and 106 claim a contact tip structure secured *only* to an end of a freestanding resilient elongate element.

Kanji discloses lead pins 11 which have upper ends that are joined to electrodes 8 on the lower surface of substrate 4 and lower ends that are joined to electrodes 3 on board 1 (see Kanji, col. 5, lines 63-68). Even if it is assumed that the upper end of lead pin 11 is a "contact tip structure" and that lead pin 11 is a "freestanding resilient elongate element," the upper end of lead pin 11 is joined to an electrode 8, which is a feature of substrate 4 but not lead pin 11. Thus, the upper end of lead pin 11 is *not* a contact tip structure secured *only* to an end of a freestanding resilient elongate element. Furthermore, Kanji does not teach or suggest securing a contact tip structure only to an end of lead pin 11.

Further, Kanji fails to disclose "a contact tip structure created in a first substrate and then secured only to an end of the freestanding resilient elongate element and released from said first substrate" as required by claim 87 and fails to disclose "a contact tip structure created in another substrate and then secured only to a second

end of the freestanding resilient elongate element opposing the first end and released from said another substrate" as required by claim 106.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 87 and 106 are not anticipated by Kanji. Claims 88-91, 95, 98-102, 107-110 and 112-114 are not anticipated by Kanji by virtue of their dependency from claims 87 and 106.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that the section 102(b) rejections are overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejections be withdrawn.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 96-97, 103-105 and 111 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanji.

Claims 96-97, 103-105 and 111 depend from claims 87 and 106, and thus incorporate the features of claim 87 and 106, including the feature of a contact tip structure secured only to an end of a freestanding resilient elongate element. As stated above, Kanji does not disclose, teach or suggest such a contact tip structure. Because Kanji fails to disclose, teach or suggest Applicants' claimed contact tip structure, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of Kanji at the time of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that the section 103(a) rejections are overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

IV. New Claims

Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 115-153 are allowable.

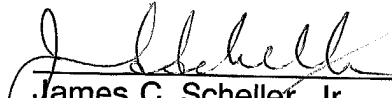
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. Please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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